

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action of June 24, 2004 has been studied and the restriction requirement analyzed.

DETAILED ACTION

Election / Restrictions

Examiner Nicholson has stated "This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: Species 1 as shown by figs. 1 - 4; Species 2 as shown by figs. 5 - 8; Species 3 as shown by figures 9 - 14 and Species 4 as shown by figs. 18 - 22.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, no claims appear generic."

Applicants elect provisionally to prosecute species 2, as exemplified by Figs. 5 - 8. This election is made with traverse. Applicants believe the claims read on the species as follows:

Species 1, Figs. 1 - 4 are read upon by Claims 1 - 11 and 32;
Species 2, Figs. 5 - 8 are read upon by Claims 21 - 31;
Species 3, Figs. 9 - 14 are read upon by Claims 1 - 20 and 32; and,
Species 4, Figs. 18 - 22 are read upon by Claims 1, 2, 3, 32 - 54.

Applicants reserve the right to reinstate withdrawn claims if a generic claim is allowed and file divisional application(s) for withdrawn claims upon completion of the prosecution on the merits of the current application.

Applicants have made note of the requirement that upon cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Applicants will make appropriate correction, if required, after the



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allowable claims are identified.

Should you wish to discuss this application, please call Michael P. Hartmann, Agent for Applicants, at (713) 939-2749 or facsimile (713) 939-2856.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR §1.8a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

June 30, 2004
Date

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